



Office for Victims of Crime

August 1999

OVC Fact Sheet

Advocating for the Fair Treatment of Crime Victims

Community Crisis Response

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), within the U.S. Department of Justice, provides Federal funds to support victim assistance and compensation programs around the country and advocates for the fair treatment of crime victims. Through its Community Crisis Response (CCR) program, OVC funds services to communities that have suffered crimes resulting in multiple victimizations or community-wide trauma. Historically, OVC, through the CCR program, responded to communities in crisis by training local service providers and deploying crisis response teams. For example, OVC's CCR program promptly deployed crisis response teams to Oklahoma City after the 1995 terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building; to Jonesboro, Arkansas, after four students and a teacher were killed in a 1998 school shooting; and, to Salt Lake City, Utah, after the 1999 fatal shooting that killed two people and injured several others in a Family History Library.

In the past, OVC's goal was to provide short-term training and technical assistance to communities in crisis. However, experience has demonstrated that every community would benefit greatly by having its own extensive community-based response plan. Today, OVC is working to help States and communities accomplish this by helping them prepare crisis response plans that include local and state-based emergency counseling and intervention and long-term mental health services for victims and surviving family members. Many States and communities already have the personnel, resources, and teams to effectively respond to major crises, so OVC is encouraging them to develop or enhance their own integrated response plans to ensure victims are provided long-term services. Through training and technical assistance, OVC can help local teams mobilize. OVC recently did this in Yosemite and Eureka, California, after two teenage girls and a mother disappeared while on vacation and in Springfield, Oregon, and Littleton, Colorado, where hundreds witnessed the brutal murders of a teacher and classmates.

OVC's Strategy

Many States have devised and implemented centralized crisis response plans. A community may already have many resources, such as mental health and victim services, emergency preparedness support, the clergy, and search and rescue services. When a crisis occurs in a community, OVC encourages the community to first contact their State VOCA (Victims of Crime Act of 1984) administrator who will determine whether existing resources can be pooled to provide the necessary services.

In cases when a State cannot provide the needed immediate assistance, OVC will continue to accept requests for training and technical assistance from eligible agencies, including victims service agencies; Federal, Tribal, State, and local criminal justice system agencies; and other agencies that regularly assist victims of violent crime. OVC can still mobilize crisis response teams to communities in need after reviewing and evaluating the request for assistance, taking into consideration the potential impact of assistance, the need for Federal support, OVC's ability to respond, and the clarity of the request. Send requests for assistance to:

Office for Victims of Crime
810 7th Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20531
Tel: (202) 307-5989
FAX: (202) 305-2440

Crisis response should be rapid and effective as well as long-term and sustaining. To this end, OVC is coordinating with nationally-recognized mental health and emergency preparedness experts to devise a strategy to help States develop and implement their own centralized crisis response plans. OVC also plans to

conduct a series of regional seminars and training courses to train local crisis response teams to respond to needs in their communities. States and local communities are encouraged to formulate and perform test-runs of crisis response plans similar to those for natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, fires, and hurricanes. States and communities should identify mental health experts within each community. States should coordinate as much information as possible to maximize access to resources in a crisis. Several States have already undertaken these activities. OVC encourages communities to find out more

information about their community crisis response plans by contacting their State VOCA administrators.

For more information about OVC, contact the following sources:

OVC Telephone (202) 307-5983
OVC Web Site <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/>
OVC Resource Center Telephone (800) 627-6872
OVC Resource Center Web Site <http://www.ncjrs.org>

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**U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
VOCA Victim Assistance Administrators**

Alabama	Jim Quinn	(334) 242-5811	(334) 242-0712
Alaska	Jayne Andreen	(907) 465-4356	(907) 465-3627
American Samoa	Mike Satia	(011) (684) 633-5221	(011) (684) 633-7552
Arizona	Sherri Doll	(602) 223-2762	(602) 223-2943
Arkansas	Jerry Duran	(501) 682-1074	(501) 682-5206
California	Ann Mizoguchi	(916) 323-7615	(916) 324-9167
Colorado	Candace Grosz	(303) 239-5703	(303) 239-4491
Connecticut	Karen Chorney	(860) 529-3089	(860) 721-0593
Delaware	Corrine Pearson	(302) 577-8696	(302) 577-3440
District of Columbia	Andrea Edmund	(202) 727-6537	(202) 727-1617
Florida	Mary Vancore	(850) 414-3335	(850) 487-3013
Georgia	John Cook	(404) 559-4949	(404) 559-4960
Guam	David Gumataotao	(011) (671) 475-3324	(011) (671) 472-2493
Hawaii	Adrian Kwock	(808) 586-1151	(808) 586-1373
Idaho	Linda Caballero	(208) 334-5580	(208) 332-7353
Illinois	Candice Kane	(312) 793-8550	(312) 793-8422
Indiana	Kimberly Howell	(317) 233-3341	(317) 232-4979
Iowa	Virginia Beane	(515) 281-5044	(515) 281-8199
Kansas	Juliene Maska	(785) 296-2215	(785) 296-6296
Kentucky	Donna Langley	(502) 564-3251	(502) 564-4840
Louisiana	Susan Deveney	(504) 925-1757	(504) 925-1998
Maine	Jeannette Talbot	(207) 287-5060	(207) 287-5065
Maryland	Adrienne Siegel	(410) 767-7477	(410) 333-0256
Massachusetts	Alyssa Kazin	(617) 727-5200	(617) 727-6552
Michigan	Leslie O'Reilly	(517) 373-1826	(517) 241-2769
Minnesota	Emilie Tan-Graf	(651) 205-4821	(651) 296-5787
Mississippi	Charles Stamps	(601) 359-7880	(601) 359-7832
Missouri	Vicky Scott	(573) 751-4905	(573) 751-3599
Montana	Wendy Sturn	(406) 444-3604	(406) 444-4722
Nebraska	La Vonna Evans	(402) 471-2194	(402) 471-2837
Nevada	Chris Graham	(702) 688-1643	(702) 688-1616
New Hampshire	Gail Dean	(603) 271-7987	(603) 271-2110
New Jersey	Kathleen Lawrie	(609) 588-4673	(609) 588-7890
New Mexico	Robin Brassie	(505) 841-9432	(505) 841-9437
New York	Ann Marie Strano	(518) 457-1779	(518) 457-8658
North Carolina	Barry Bryant	(919) 733-4564	(919) 733-4625
North Dakota	Paul Coughlin	(701) 328-6195	(701) 328-6651
Northern Mariana Islands	Jenny Villagomez	(011) (670) 664-4550	(011) (670) 664-4560
Ohio	Sharon Boyer	(614) 466-5610	(614) 752-2732
Oklahoma	Suzanne Breedlove	(405) 557-6704	(405) 524-0581
Oregon	Mary Ellen Johnson	(503) 378-5348	(503) 378-5738
Pennsylvania	John Kunkle	(717) 787-8559	(717) 783-7713
Puerto Rico	Luis Gonzalez-Javier	(787) 725-0335	(787) 721-7280
Republic of Palau	Yusim Sato	(011) (680) 488-1002	(011) (680) 488-1211
Rhode Island	Joseph Persia	(401) 222-4498	(401) 222-1294
South Carolina	Barbara Jean Nelson	(803) 896-8712	(803) 896-8714
South Dakota	Susan Sheppick	(605) 773-4330	(605) 773-6834
Tennessee	Pat Dishman	(615) 741-8277	(615) 532-2989
Texas	Glenn Brooks	(512) 463-1944	(512) 475-2440
Utah	Christine Watters	(801) 238-2360	(801) 533-4127
Vermont	Lori Hayes	(802) 241-1250	(802) 241-1253
Virgin Islands	R. Maria Brady	(340) 774-6400	(340) 776-3317
Virginia	Mandie Patterson	(804) 786-3923	(804) 371-8981
Washington	Susan Hannibal	(360) 902-7994	(360) 902-7903
West Virginia	Tonia Thomas	(304) 558-8814	(304) 558-0391
Wisconsin	Steve Derene	(608) 267-2251	(608) 264-6368
Wyoming	Sharon Montagnino	(307) 777-6515	(307) 777-6683